

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated in the separate sheets attached below and entitled "Claim Amendments Filed 10/16/2006 with Amendment and Request for Continuing Examination in Patent Application No. 10/735,862".

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-96 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants amend claims 29, 34 and 69. Claim 29 is amended to correct an obvious typographical error. The amendments to independent claims 34 and 69 are non-narrowing and have been made solely for the purpose of clarifying the meaning of the language previously recited by these claims to emphasize that the optical fiber must be substantially devoid of any location that is included in more than two of the resonance cavities. As a result, claims 1-96 are still pending for examination with claims 1, 34, 69, 88, 89, 92 and 95 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Summary of Exchange of Voicemail with Examiner

On September 8, 2005, the Examiner issued a Final Rejection in this case that was mailed on September 16, 2005. Pursuant to MPEP § 1.136(a), a reply to that Office Action was due by March 16, 2006. On March 16, 2006, Applicants filed a Notice of Appeal along with a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR § 1.136(a). Pursuant to MPEP § 1205.01, 37 CFR § 41.37(a), and 37 CFR § 1.136(a), Applicants should have been permitted to extend the time period allotted to file an Appeal for up to five months from the date on which the Appeal brief was due (two months from the filing of the Notice of Appeal, i.e. May 16, 2006). Thus, Applicants should have been permitted to extend the above indicated time period until October 16, 2006. On September 28, 2006, however, the Patent Office issued a Notice of Abandonment, indicating that the time for response had expired on September 16, 2006. On September 29, 2006, Applicants' representative Michael J. Pomianek, Reg. No. 46,190 left a voicemail for Examiner Sung H. Pak explaining the error. On October 3, 2006, the Examiner left a voicemail for Applicants' representative, agreeing